**The Velveteen Rabbit - Summary**

Once there was a rabbit made of a material called velveteen. He had brown and white spots and he was fat and bunchy. Just as a rabbit should be. He was given as a present to a boy at Christmas. For two hours, the boy loved him, but then, when other presents were opened, the rabbit was forgotten.

The rabbit lived for a long time in the toy cupboard or on the floor of the nursery. The other toys, a model boat and a wooden lion, were boastful and proud and they looked down at the rabbit. Only the horse was friendly. He was old and his coat was bald in patches. He had hardly any hair left at all. But he was kind and he was wise.

He talked to the rabbit about how toys become real. He explained that it was a thing that happened to a toy when they are loved by a child. He said that it happened gradually and that even if you were old and scruffy, you could be made real. The rabbit loved listening to the horse.

One night, the boy took the rabbit to bed to help him sleep. From that time on, the rabbit became the boy’s favourite toy. He took him everywhere. He spent the days playing with him and the nights snuggling. The rabbit’s fur became worn and his tail became unsewn. But he was happy. The boy said that the rabbit was real.

One summer evening, the boy took the rabbit outside with him. He lay him carefully on the ground while he went to play. Whilst the boy was away playing, two other rabbits came by. They weren’t quite like the toy rabbit. They could move and twitch their noses. They asked the toy rabbit to come and play but he couldn’t. They laughed at him and told him that he was not real. They made the toy rabbit cry. The boy came and found him and took him back home.

One day, the boy became ill. His face grew flushed and he talked in his sleep. Lots of people came to visit. It was a long and weary time for the rabbit, because the boy could not play with him. He waited patiently for the boy to get better. When he did, they planned to go to the seaside. Just as they were about to go, a doctor found the toy rabbit and told everyone that he must have germs. The rabbit was put into a rubbish sack and taken outside, ready to be burnt with all the other rubbish. The boy got given a new rabbit instead.

All alone in the rubbish sack, the toy rabbit thought of the boy and the horse and began to cry. As a tear reached the ground, a strange thing happened. A mysterious flower began to grow. From inside the flower, stepped out a fairy. She explained that she would make the rabbit real. She held him in her arms and flew him into the woods. She placed him with the other rabbits and the toy rabbit found that he was quite real!

Almost a year later, the boy was playing outside when he saw two rabbits peeping at him. He thought that one of them looked just like his old toy rabbit. And it was. The rabbit had come back to look at the child who had first helped him to be real.

*Unit 4 Day 1*

**Sentences to Sort**

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| --- | --- |
| The rabbit was sitting in the Boy’s stocking. | The rabbit was holding a sprig of holly. |
| The rabbit was waiting in the toy cupboard. | The boy was unwrapping his other presents. |
| The boy is unwrapping his other presents. | The rabbit is sitting in the Boy’s stocking. |
| The rabbit is holding a sprig of holly. | The rabbit is waiting in the toy cupboard. |
| The other toys are laughing at the rabbit. | The Skin Horse is looking after the rabbit. |
| The Skin Horse was looking after the rabbit. | The other toys were laughing at the rabbit. |

*Unit 4 Day 1*

**Sentence sorter (enlarge to A3)**

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| **Past progressive** | **Present progressive** |
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*Unit 4 Day 1*